

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02687 262231Z
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SUBJECT: GOL PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
YEAR

REF: STATE 128693

1. LIBERIAN PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
YEAR WAS FIRST MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS IN HIS
STATEMENT IN GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 32ND SESSION OF UNGA,
DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 11, 1977. IN HIS REMARKS, DENNIS
REFERRED TO A HOST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MANY
WELL OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM (SUCH AS OAS, ASEAN, THE NAM,
THE ARAB LEAGUE). HE PROPOSED THAT "AS A TRIBUTE TO
THESE GREAT INSTITUTIONS FOR FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, THE YEAR 1980 BE DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS YEAR, A YEAR WHEN ATTENTION WOULD BE FOCUSED
WORLD-WIDE ON THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERNATION-
AL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONTAINING OR RESOLVING WORLD
PROBLEMS AND THUS SERVING EVEN MORE EFFECTIVELY AS
INSTRUMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY."

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02687 262231Z

2. THESE VERY BRIEF REMARKS WERE FOLLOWED UP IN A
NOTE-VERBALE OF THE LIBERIAN MISSION TO THE SYG, DATED
9 NOVEMBER 1977, WHICH AGAIN REFERRED TO INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL. THE NOTE SUGGESTED SIX
OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR, "AMONG OTHERS":
- 1) TO ASSESS THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHORT-COMINGS OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;

- 2) TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;

- 3) TO ACCELERATE INCREASED GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;

- 4) TO ASSESS THEIR RELATIONS WITH SOVEREIGN STATES;

- 5) TO CREATE THE ATMOSPHERE FOR CO-OPERATION IN INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS;

- 6) TO ASSESS THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. NOTE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT PROGRAM FOR YEAR BE IN TWO PARTS:

- 1) WHAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT DO TO ACCELERATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO CREATE THE ATMOSPHERE FOR CO-OPERATION IN INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS; AND

- 2) WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES MIGHT DO, AS PART OF THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS, TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS.

3. LIBERIAN OBSERVER DEL FOLLOWED UP ON PROPOSAL IN 1978 ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF ECOSOC, AND THAT SESSION DECIDED (DECISION 1981, PARA 3(C)) TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL UNDER THE ITEM "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM" (ITEM 22). IT IS DULY INSCRIBED "WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF (BEGIN BRACKET) THE COUNCIL'S (END BRACKET) REVIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL YEARS AND ANNIVERSARIES."

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02687 262231Z

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT SCOPE PROPOSAL NOT ONLY EXCEEDS ECOSOC'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, BUT EXTENDS BEYOND UN SYSTEM, WHILE THEME INCLUDES SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS ENHANCEMENT OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. HENCE, MISSION SUGGESTS THAT PURELY UN OPERATIONS-CENTERED ARGUMENTS AGAINST YEAR (EXISTENCE OF CHARTER REVIEW AND RESTRUCTURING EXERCISES) WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT.

5. MISSION HAS CHECKED WITH A NUMBER OF DELEGATES ON PROSPECTS FOR PROPOSAL. UK, MEXICO, SWEDEN, FRG WERE EITHER TOTALLY UNAWARE OF PROPOSAL OR HAD HEARD NOTHING MORE OF IT SINCE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF ECOSOC IN JANUARY. UKUN SUGGESTS HMG LIKELY TO OPPOSE YEAR, CONSISTENT WITH ITS GENERAL POLICY; OTHERS MENTIONED ALSO INDICATED THEY WERE NOT FAVORABLE. PHILIPPINES MISSION NOTED THEY HAD RECEIVED A NOTE FROM LIBERIAN MISSION ON THE SUBJECT, AND FORWARDED TO MANILA. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE NOTE HAS BEEN ANSWERED IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE MANNER. TUNISIAN AND EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUES UNDERLINED THAT PROPOSAL WAS A LIBERIAN AND NOT AN AFRICAN INITIATIVE.

NIGERIAN NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED A LIBERIAN NOTE IN LAGOS, AND THAT HE WAS RECOMMENDING YEAR BE CONSIDERED ONLY IN CONTEXT OF ALL OTHER PROPOSALS. HE ADDED HE WAS LOOKING FOR ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PROPOSAL. WE SUPPLIED SOME. LEONARD

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